

**SOC 204: Introduction to Sociology**  
**Fall 2016**  
**Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Dr. Misty Freeman

**Email:** [freemam@linnbenton.edu](mailto:freemam@linnbenton.edu)

**Phone:** (541) 368-5258

**Office Location:** Benton Center Room 204

**Class Meets:** Benton Center Room 204, Thursdays 6-7:50pm

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 5-6pm, 8-9pm in Benton Center 204, or by appointment. Telephone, Skype, FaceTime, or Google Hangouts can be arranged if a face-to-face meeting does not work for the student.

*NOTE: My regular office hours are one hour before and one hour after our weekly class meeting. If no students stay after class to meet with me, I will go home before 9pm.*

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology. Sociology is a systemic study of human behavior in the context of groups. Sociology analyzes the causes, effects, and relationships among different social phenomena scientifically. The main objective of this class is for students to develop a “sociological imagination” or understanding of the world that we live in. The course is designed to give students practice in developing and sharpening their scholarly abilities. In order to have a stimulating a successful sociology class, participation during our weekly class meeting will be graded in addition to work students do on their own through Moodle.

**Course Objectives:**

As a result of fully participating in this class, students will demonstrate:

1. Develop a sociological understanding of historical and cultural contexts of social events.
2. Learn core sociological theories and processes.
3. Understand how the scientific method is used to examine our social world.
4. Find applications for sociological theories and concepts in students' own lives.
5. Develop a critical perspective of social conditions.

**Course Credits:** This course combines approximately 9 hours a week x 10 weeks of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

**Moodle:** This course is a *hybrid course*, which means that part of the course content and activities will take place in a weekly face-to-face meeting, and the rest will be delivered via Moodle, Linn Benton's online learning environment, where students interact with classmates and with the instructor.

We will meet together each Thursday evening, 6-7:50pm, in Benton Center Room 204. The rest of the course will take place in Moodle, where students will access learning materials and class discussions, as well as turn in assignments. To preview how Moodle works or to get assistance with Moodle, visit the [Linn Benton Community College eLearning website](http://elearning.linnbenton.edu).<sup>1</sup>

**Instructor Communication Policy:** The instructor for SOC 204: Introduction to Sociology for Fall 2016 is Dr. Misty Freeman. Dr. Freeman is available during office hours or by pre-arranged meetings with students in person, via telephone, Skype, FaceTime, or Google Hangouts, according to the student's preference. To arrange a meeting or to contact the instructor with questions or concerns, email is preferred: [freemam@linnbenton.edu](mailto:freemam@linnbenton.edu). Dr. Freeman does her best to reply to emails within 24 hours, and 48 hours on weekends. Students are also welcome to contact Dr. Freeman via telephone at (541) 368-5258.

Announcements will occasionally be posted in or emailed from Moodle. Students are required to use an LBCC email address. If you are forwarding your LBCC mail to another account, please note messages from or to the instructor may be filtered.

### **Required Textbook:**

Sociological Odyssey: Contemporary Readings in Introductory Sociology, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Adler, Patricia & Adler, Peter  
Wadsworth Cengage Learning  
Belmont, CA  
ISBN-10: 1-111-82955-1<sup>2</sup>

The book is available through the [Benton Center Bookstore](http://www.bookstore.linnbenton.edu/lbenton/site_bentonctr.asp)<sup>3</sup> or various online and brick-and-mortar booksellers.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://elearning.linnbenton.edu>

<sup>2</sup> NOTE: If you copy and paste the ISBN number (1111829551) into your internet browser or Amazon.com, the book will come up right away.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.bookstore.linnbenton.edu/lbenton/site\\_bentonctr.asp](http://www.bookstore.linnbenton.edu/lbenton/site_bentonctr.asp)

**Other Required Materials:** Computer with email and internet access, which can be through a student's own computer, or simply a computer on the LBCC campus.

**Other Course Policies:** Late assignments will only be accepted from students who have legitimate excuses. The instructor will work with students who communicate their needs to the extent possible. Students experiencing difficulty are expected to contact the instructor as soon as possible to develop a plan.

**NOTE:** *If you are having a tough time, I **want** you to contact me! I want you to be successful, and the sooner you get in touch, the better chance we have of making a plan that will work for you.*

Extra credit is not offered for this course.

Students are expected to do all required reading and participate in all course requirements.

*Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Engaging in such behaviors will result in a failing course grade. You are to do **ALL** of your own work. Plagiarism is defined as representing (and using) another person's ideas, writings, and work as one's own. Not citing sources is a form of plagiarism.*

**Students with Disabilities:** Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR). Students with accommodations approved through CFAR are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through CFAR should contact CFAR immediately at (541) 917-4789.

**Counseling, Writing Help, and Tutoring:** The [Learning and Career Center](#)<sup>4</sup> is located on the second floor of the Benton Center. There, students can meet with a counselor, get career assistance, study, and more. [The Annex](#)<sup>5</sup>, also located on the second floor of the Benton Center, includes a writing desk with staff specially trained to assist students with writing assignments. No appointment is needed. Students are also encouraged to visit [LBCC's Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/campus-locations-and-maps/benton-center/learning-and-career-services/learning-and-career-center>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/study/learning-center/hours-and-locations/benton-center-learning-annex>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/study/learning-center/writing-assistance/online-writing-lab-owl>

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## Coursework and Assignments:

Each week, students will be assigned the following recurring tasks:

- Reading, typically from *Sociological Odyssey*, and sometimes additional items for clarification of concepts, **due each Thursday by class time**
- Meeting together on Thursdays, with a graded participation exercise

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

1. Reflection papers (1-2 pages) on reading and discussion topics, due in Moodle
2. Online discussion boards: one original post, and at least one response to another student's original post
3. In class participation exercises
4. Final paper, with exercises to lead up to writing the paper (discussing the paper topic with another student; reviewing the paper outline with another student; reviewing the paper draft with another student; turning in the final paper to the instructor in Moodle)

**Reflection Papers:** Reflection papers will be assigned four times throughout the quarter. There will be several writing prompts to choose from, and the goal is for students to show off what they have learned and practice synthesizing concepts through writing. Reflection papers are worth 60 points each x 4 = 240 points. Papers are due on Sunday of the assigned week by 11:59pm, as a doc., docx., or pdf. file uploaded to Moodle. *See the Course Schedule and Moodle for more information.*

**Online Discussion Board:** Three times during the quarter, students will be assigned an online discussion with their peers in the "Discussion Board" section of Moodle. The discussion is designed to help students synthesize course material by writing a thoughtful **original post** based on the assigned prompt, and then **responding to a peer's original post** in a way that genuinely contributes to the discussion. Students are encouraged to post more than one peer response in order to engage in conversation and mutual learning.

Students' original posts will be worth 35 points, and response posts will be worth 15 points for the first response. Additional responses will not be graded.

Original responses are expected to be several paragraphs in length (ideally about 500 words), be well thought out, and incorporate citations from the week's reading(s). Inclusion of in text citations and a matching bibliography/works cited on all original posts is required for full credit. *See Moodle for more details on citing sources.*

Due to the nature of discussions, it is important to compose one's original discussion board post and make it available **by Friday at 11:59pm** each week, so that there are plenty of posts to choose from when composing a response. Response posts are **due Sunday at 11:59pm** each week.

Students may wish to write and edit their original posts in a word processor program before posting to Moodle. Additional information will be provided with each prompt. (Note: Week 1's discussion board **original post** will be shorter and requires only a **brief response** to another student's post.) *See Moodle for more details on grading and sample discussion board posts.*

### **Ground Rules for Discussions:**

1. Respect what your classmates say in class and post on Moodle.
2. Speak from **your own experience** instead of generalizing ("I" instead of "they", "we" and "you". Use friends'/other people's stories rarely, if at all.
3. Don't be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks – focus on ideas.
4. Participate to the fullest of your ability – community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
5. Instead of invalidating another's story with your own spin on their experiences, share your own story and experience.
6. The goal is not to agree or disagree – it is to hear and explore divergent perspectives. Practice withholding judgment and let yourself really listen to and consider other points of view.
7. The Discussion Board is an academic forum – use proper spelling, grammar, and style. No text-speak, please. Remember that your original posts and all replies are graded, written assignments.

**In Class Participation Exercises:** Each Thursday when we meet together for class (except for the final class meeting), there will be a participatory exercise that will be graded. Typically, this will be a discussion that takes place either as a whole class or in small groups, where every student takes a turn contributing, and students will either report back orally or using a short written reflection. The goal is to get students working together to synthesize weekly materials. Participation exercises will be graded on an all-or-nothing basis, where full points will be given to those who participate in a meaningful way. Exercises are worth 30 points x 8 weeks = 240 points.

**Final Paper and Pre-Paper Assignments:** The largest single grade in the course comes from the final paper. This paper will be on a topic of the student's choosing and should relate to key concepts in the course. We will review the topic selection process and what the paper should be about in class. The final paper should be 5-7 pages,

double-spaced, no more than 12 point font. The paper is due by **11:59pm on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** via upload to Moodle. The final paper is worth 250 points.

To prepare for the final paper, there are three additional pre-paper assignments that will be graded. All of these involve sharing with another student in our Thursday evening class meeting. These include:

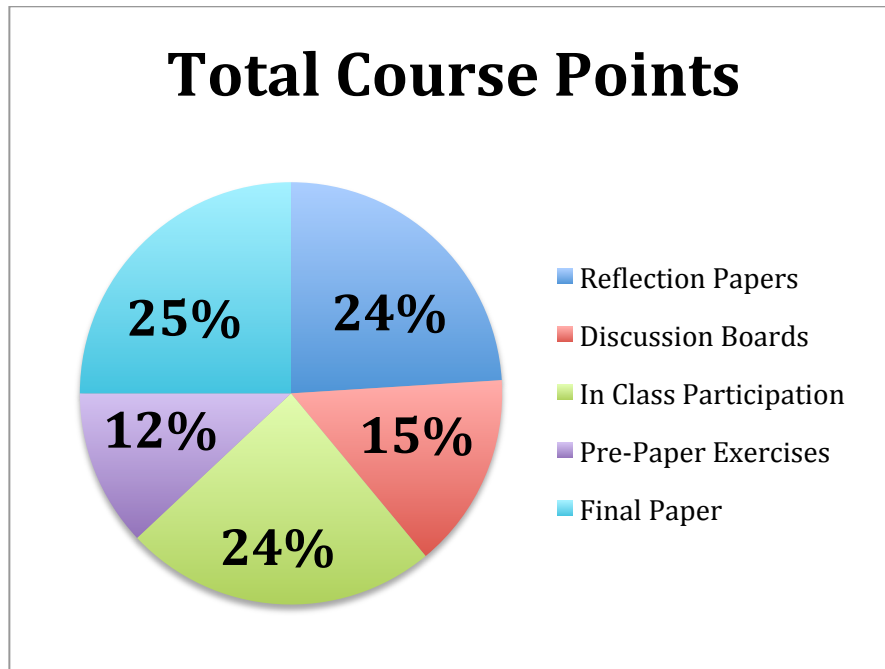
- Discussion of possible paper topic: each student will bring 3-5 paper topics to class and discuss them with a fellow student; each student will provide constructive feedback to another student on their paper topic
- Review of paper outline: each student will bring an outline of the paper to class and discuss it with a fellow student; each student will provide constructive feedback to another student on their outline
- Critique of paper draft: each student will bring a draft of their paper to class and discuss it with a fellow student; each student will provide a constructive critique to another student on their draft

All written assignments (reflection papers, discussion boards, and final papers) will be graded according to these criteria:

1. Evidence of reading, viewing, absorbing the materials
2. Critical thinking about what the materials mean, rather than just repeating what was said (identifying the key points and tell me why they matter)
3. Contribution and development of student's own ideas, opinions, experiences
4. In text citations for all concepts and ideas that did not originate with the student, and a matching bibliography or works cited at the end

**\*\*Please see the rubric for each of these assignments for more information about grading.\*\***

Grades will be calculated as follows:



<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total</u>
Reflection Papers	60 pts x 4 weeks	240
Discussion Boards	50 pts x 3 weeks <i>(35 pts for original post + 15 pts for response post)</i>	150
In Class Participation	30 pts x 8 weeks	240
Paper Topic Exercise	40 pts	40
Paper Outline Exercise	40 pts	40
Paper Draft Exercise	40 pts	40
Final Paper	250 pts	250

**Total Points Possible: 1000**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- 90%+ A
- 80-89.9% B
- 70-79.9% C
- 60-69.9% D
- 59.9% or below F

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